update

Vol. 6, no. 22, 2 November 1992
Published by the Division of Public Affairs,
United Nations Development Programme,
One UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

UNDP official appointed to oversee UN support for peace agreement in Mozambique

The United Nations Secretary-General appointed Aldo Ajello, Director of UNDP's Bureau of External Relations, as Interim Special Representative for Mozambique. Mr. Ajello, who is from Italy, will be in charge of UN activities in support of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique, including monitoring its implementation and overseeing military arrangements and elections. He will also coordinate the humanitarian and other efforts of the United Nations system in Mozambique related to the peace process.

Cutting down on greenhouse gases in Asia

UNDP is assisting 14 countries in Asia and the Pacific in limiting their greenhouse gas emissions. This Global Environment Facility (GEF) programme will help each country complete a greenhouse gas inventory, providing a comprehensive understanding of emission sources. Detailed measurements and economic data will supply information to improve emission estimates and implement cost-effective greenhouse gas policies.

The earth's atmosphere is changing with the accumulation of greenhouse gases. The most important among these are carbon dioxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons, and nitrous oxide. It is estimated that the Asia region's share of global emissions will increase from 21 per cent today to 35 per cent in 2025.

This is due, in part, to the fact that the main energy supply in the region is coal. The combustion of coal releases more carbon dioxide than that of oil and gas. Similarly, the release of methane from paddy fields contributes substantially to Asia's greenhouse gas emissions. These factors make it all the more important for the region to find a sustainable solution to the problem.

Training in each of the participating countries will enhance the capabilities of experts in the region to gather data, and assist governments in formulating national strategies. The countries involved in this project include Bangladesh, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

UNDP, the World Bank, and the UN Environment Programme are responsible for managing the GEF, an initiative which addresses environmental problems of a global nature. The technical advisory board of GEF has assigned a high priority to this Asian programme.

Ensuring Earth Summit goals are brought into action

As governments gear up to implement UNCED recommendations, UNDP is providing technical assistance for integrating environment and natural resources considerations with sustainable development goals. In many cases, countries are in need of very specific, short-term advice for paving the way towards sustainable development.

A new $750,000 interregional project will enable the Environment and Natural Resources Group of UNDP to assist governments by dispatching consultants, arranging workshops, providing links to experts and conducting short-term training supportive of sustainable development. This project is a preparatory stage for CAPACITY 21, a UNDP initiative to help developing countries devise and manage their own sustainable development plans.

Information on environmentally-sound technology and natural resource management will be published and disseminated. National and regional workshops and meetings on critical sustainable development issues will be organized. The long-term goal will be to ensure that environment and natural resource considerations are included in UNDP programmes and other development-related activities.

In this Issue:

Projects approved: **Boosting aquaculture in Bangladesh • Readying Brazilian software for export • Burkina Faso improves human development resources • New jobs for Cambodia • Achieving economic political goals in China • Better agriculture inspection in India • Conservation in Mali • Relieving a transportation bottleneck in Nicaragua • Teacher training in Rwanda • State enterprise reform in Viet-Nam • Developing the Tumen River area**

u p d

Emergency assistance to Mt. Pinatubo area

UNDP has joined other United Nations agencies in providing emergency assistance to areas most devastated by the recent re-eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines. Nearly a million people were seriously affected by the September eruption of the volcano.

UNDP allocated $50,000 in emergency funds for the local purchase of communications equipment, powdered milk, infant food, mosquito nets, mats, blankets and soap to meet immediate needs of the disaster victims. UNICEF is providing tents, water containers and water purifiers. The World Food Programme is arranging for purchase of rice, cooking oil and canned food.

Donors reaffirm support for Mongolia's reforms

A recent donor consultation meeting in Mongolia emphasized the critical need for further external assistance during the country's transition to a full-fledged market economy. UNDP expressed willingness to continue its coordinating role by mobilizing the most effective possible package of donor contributions to help Mongolia overcome economic crisis and follow a path of self-sustaining growth.

These issues were raised at the second donor consultation meeting held in Ulaanbaatar on 14-15 October, co-chaired by the Government of Mongolia and UNDP. Delegates from 17 countries and 10 international organizations attended the meeting. They discussed the government's initiatives and plans of action towards economic stabilization and reform.

Participants noted that foreign assistance for critical imports is being effectively disbursed. The government reported, however, that Mongolia still faces serious shortfalls in meeting pressing needs for such items as petroleum and food.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Bangladesh — Lack of credit and affordable fish feed have hindered aquaculture production. This five-year project will provide 1,000 landless and small farmers in two districts with technology and credit for intensive fish farming.

The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) will provide PRISM, a Bangladeshi non-governmental organization, with the facilities, and capital needed to extend duckweed technology. Duckweed is a high-protein crop that grows wild on stagnant ponds. Through commercial enterprises, farmers will produce duckweed and fish in ponds covering 200 hectares of land.

UNCDF contribution: $1,860,000. Funds will be used for technical and managerial assistance, and a credit fund. Executed by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. (BGD/91/CO6)

Brazil — The government's plan for the computer industry, which accounts for two per cent of the country's Gross National Product, calls for better coordination of research and enhanced support for software exports. Funding will be provided for software development geared towards export markets. UNDP will also help set up a network to link major governmental institutions and private sector organizations involved in science and technology.

UNDP contribution: $1,080,000. Government cost-sharing $27,000,000. Funds will be used for consultants, training and equipment. Government executed and implemented by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, universities and research institutes and the private sector. (BRA/92/019)

Burkina Faso — United Nations Volunteer specialists assigned to key institutions will train national personnel in economic management, natural resources management, and promotion of the private sector. National capabilities in formulating projects for women in development will also be enhanced.

UNDP contribution: $2,780,000. Funds will be used for equipment, personnel, and 41 UNVs in various fields. Executed by UNV. Implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Planning. (BKF/92/001)

Cambodia — UNDP and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) have designed an employment creation programme for Cambodia. The country must resettle 700,000 people, including 380,000 refugees returning from Thailand, 140,000 soldiers who will be demobilized as part of the peace process, and 180,000 internally displaced Cambodians. Unemployment within these groups has become an increasingly serious problem, and could pose a risk to the peace process.

Offices for promoting small enterprises will offer services to potential entrepreneurs, including access to a revolving credit fund. In addition, an economic opportunity survey will be conducted to determine local demand for products and services.

Women will be the main beneficiaries of this small enterprise development and informal sector promotion project. By providing advisory services and access to credit, the project could help Cambodian women progress into small-scale undertakings with higher productivity and greater earnings than they now receive in the informal sector.

UNDP contribution: $3,335,320. Funds will be used for training,

establishing a credit fund, financing experts in small-enterprise development and promotion. Executed by the ILO and CARE International. Implemented by the Supreme National Council of Cambodia. (CMB/92/010)

Cambodia — In another job creation project, roads and irrigation systems will be rehabilitated through a labour-based programme that will provide employment for 4,000 economically disadvantaged people. Nearly 150 kilometres of roads will be reconstructed in Battambang and Siem Reap. Engineers, technicians and supervisors will be trained in construction and maintenance of the road and irrigation systems.

UNDP contribution: $1,044,300. Third-party cost sharing from the Government of the Netherlands: $1,970,300. Funds will be used for training and engineers. Executed by the ILO. Implemented by the Supreme National Council of Cambodia. (CMB/92/008)

China — The project will enhance the Government's effectiveness in specifying and achieving its economic policy goals. Detailed studies will be conducted on planning techniques in key areas such as industrial policy, regional development policy, development of an efficient market, and human resources development. Findings and recommendations will be presented to the State Council. In addition, the project will support the development of a computer-based policy forecasting model of the national economy. A statistical database and information system will be set up to support the model.

UNDP contribution: $1,650,000. Funds will provide training, fellowships, study tours, and a foreign expert in macroeconomic management. Microcomputers, software and library materials will also be provided. Executed by the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges. Implemented by the State Planning Commission. (CPR/91/522)

India — National policy calls for liberalized import of high-quality seeds to help increase production and consumption of various agricultural products. UNDP assistance under this project will upgrade the scientific and technical capabilities of five selected Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage Facilities (DPPQS). Project support will also improve the laboratories and the inspection and quarantine capabilities of these facilities. Technical staff will be trained in virology, entomology, plant pathology, bacteriology and weed science. They will learn procedures and techniques for detecting exotic pests and pathogens when handling bulk imports. Manuals and guidelines will be prepared for customs officials concerned with intercepting pests and pathogens dangerous to Indian agriculture.

UNDP contribution: $3,158,480. Funds will be used for consultants, training, and equipment for inspection, testing and quarantine laboratory work. Executed and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. (IND/92/032)

Mali — The Baoulé National Park and Biosphere Reserve is the largest conservation area in Mali. UNDP will help strengthen the Park authority's capability to initiate, implement and monitor a management plan. Efforts will focus on obtaining an up-to-date inventory of the park's environment and the use of resources by villagers. A management plan and a system for controlling illegal hunting will be devised. The Opération Aménagement du Parc National de la Boucle de Baoulé et des Réserves (OPNBB), which is responsible for the Park's management, will be restructured.

UNDP contribution: $1,746,000. Government cost-sharing: $726,000. Funds will provide training, equipment, a consultant in national resources management, a UNV in sociology and a specialist in rural community training. Subcontracts will be provided for inventory surveys, aerial photographs and cartography. Executed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and implemented by OPNBB. (MLI/91/014)

Nicaragua — UNDP will provide assistance for the construction of a 75-metre long bridge across the Jicaro River. The bridge will eliminate a transport bottleneck which has hindered agricultural productivity and improve access to a hospital and other public facilities and businesses located in Quilali. The overpass will be used by pedestrians, eliminating the present danger caused by river crossings during high tide.

UNDP contribution: $26,250. UNCDF contribution: $946,398. Government cost-sharing: $6,000. Contributions will fund subcontracts and other programme support. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services and implemented by the Ministry of Construction and Transport. (NIC/92/C01)

Rwanda — This UNDP-supported project will provide technical assistance for developing and evaluating primary education curricula and textbooks. In addition, support will be provided for training of teachers and supervisors.

UNDP contribution: $2,143,400. Funds will be used for specialists in teacher training and curriculum development, equipment, and administrative support. Executed by UNESCO. Implemented by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. (RWA/91/015)

Viet Nam — The Vietnamese economy is undergoing major restructuring towards a more market-oriented system. UNDP will help develop the institutional capabilities for formulating state

READEX
FICHE

enterprise reforms. It will also help improve the financial supervision and management of enterprises that remain under state ownership. Staff from a wide range of institutions will be trained in financial analysis, business law, accounting, mergers and liquidations, labour market issues and securities regulation.

UNDP contribution: $2,975,000. Funds will be used for vehicles, seminars and experts in such areas as enterprise reform and corporate law. Executed by the World Bank. Implemented by the State Planning Committee, the Central Institute for Economic Management, the Ministry of Finance, and the State Bank of Viet Nam. (VIE/91/011)

Regional Projects:

RAS/92/430 — The strategic importance and economic potential for international economic cooperation in the Tumen River Basin has drawn increasing international attention in recent years. This programme of assistance will provide the technical and analytical basis for governments to understand the benefits of joint action in developing the Tumen River area. Preliminary studies will be conducted to identify possible institutional, legal, financial and economic options that can be adopted for achieving mutual benefits from the region.

UNDP contribution: $3,515,000. Third-party cost sharing: $1,000,000. Funds will be used for experts in economics, transit and trade issues, engineering, finance and international law. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services. Implemented by the Programme Management Committee of the Governments of China, DPR Korea, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russia.

Printed on recycled paper.

United Nations
Development Programme
One UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Human Development